

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 084640

R 301034Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: JUNTA REASSURES PORTUGUESE THAT FREEDOM NOT
LEADING TO ANARCHY

REF: LISBON 2108

SUMMARY: JUNTA MEMBER IN NATIONWIDE RADIO-TV ADDRESS REASSURED
SOME PORTUGUESE, AND WARNED OTHERS, THAT JUNTA WILL
ENSURE THAT RECENT EXCESSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAD
TO ANARCHY AND ECONOMIC COLLAPSE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FIRST PUBLIC ADDRESS BY JUNTA MEMBER OTHER THAN
GENERALS SPINOLA OR COSTA GOMES, GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO
ON EVENING MAY 27 READ TO NATION TEXT OF LETTER WHICH
HE CLAIMED WAS SENT TO JUNTA BY "ONE PORTUGUESE CITIZEN".
GALVAO DE MELO VOLUNTEERED THAT AUTHOR'S SENTIMENTS
COULD HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY ALL AUTHENTIC" PORTUGUESE.

2. LETTER ASKS IF FREEDOM GAINED BY PORTUGAL APRIL 25
WAS MEANT TO BE ONE WHICH LIBERATES TERRORISTS-WITHOUT-
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A-COUNTRY AND TRANSFORMS THEM INTO NATIONAL HEROES,

PERMITS MANHUNTS AND PERSECUTION, ALLOWS TWISTING OF NEWS IN OFFICIAL RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS, PERMITS IMMORALITIES IN PRESS, ALL OF WHICH CAUSE FOREIGN PRESS TO SCOFF AT PORTUGAL AS A GROTESQUE DEMOCRACY. LETTER EXPRESSES APPREHENSION OVER CLIMATE OF ANARCHY WHICH IS IN TOTAL CONTRADICTION TO RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM BROUGHT TO PORTUGAL BY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. LETTER ENDS BY WONDERING IF COUNTRY CAN SURVIVE ECONOMIC CRISIS GROWING DAILY WITH PARALYSIS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, INCREASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE BUSINESS FAILURES CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE DEMANDS BY THOSE CLAIMING REPRESENT WORKERS.

3. GALVAO DE MELO COMMENTED THAT THE YOUNG CAPTAINS' MOVEMENT ENTRUSTED TO THE EXPERIENCED HANDS OF THE JUNTA THE TASK OF RESPECTING AND DEFENDING FREEDOM FOR ALL PORTUGUESE TO THINK AND BE INFORMED, TO HAVE OPEN DISCUSSION, AND TO CHOOSE WHAT IS BEST FOR PORTUGAL. JUNTA WELL AWARE AND DISPLEASED BY ABUSES TO THAT FREEDOM DURING PAST MONTH, WHETHER CAUSED BY ILL-INTENTIONED, WHOM JUNTA WILL HAVE TO TEACH WITH PATIENCE BUT ALSO NECESSARY FIRMNESS, OR BY EXHUBERANCE OF INNOCENTS TO WHOM THE LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD TO FREEDOM IS AN UNKNOWN. HE ENDED WITH ASSURANCE TO LETTER WRITER AND ALL PORTUGUESE TO BE WARY BUT CONFIDENT THAT THE JUNTA WILL ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION OF BRINGING FREEDOM TO THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO'S ADDRESS, WHICH HE TOLD EMBOFF HAD BEEN TAPED BEFORE MAY 25, BY CHANCE REACHED PORTUGUESE PUBLIC ONE DAY AFTER POLICE USED FORCE TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATION IN ESTRELA SQUARE (REFTEL). HIS TONE CONSISTENT WITH ACTION TAKEN BY AUTHORITIES IN THAT INSTANCE-FIRMNESS, PATIENCE AND MODERATION. GALVAO DE MELO TOLD EMBOFF THAT, WHILE JUNTA INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR ALL, SPEECH WAS DESIGNED PUT A TOUCH ON THE BRAKES. WE FEEL THAT SPEECH, TOGETHER WITH THE FIRMNESS SHOWN TOWARD DEMONSTRATORS ON MAY 26, SHOULD HELP TO BOOST CONFIDENCE AMONG THOSE WHO, LIKE LETTER'S AUTHOR, WELCOMED THE REVOLUTION BUT NOW ARE NERVOUS IN THE AFTERMATH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND STAND AS SIGNAL THAT JUNTA HAS THE MEANS AND THE WILL TO PREVENT EXCESSES FROM LEADING COUNTRY INTO CRISIS SITUATION. SCOTT

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